

**ABSTRACT**

5 A system for positioning components of different thicknesses on a component platform, comprising: a frame; a tool head connected to the frame, the tool head being vertically movable; a retractable vacuum tube receivable within the tool head; and a grasping assembly which can be actuated to securely hold the vacuum tube in a fixed position relative to the tool head after the vacuum tube has been at least partially received within the tool head.